

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 12747 112013Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 AF-10 A-01 CPR-02
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P R 111624Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4133
INFO USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS ROME 12747

PASS WHITE HOUSE

STATE FOR EUR,AF/P, AF/W

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: OVIP, SOPN, IT (CARTER, LILLIAN)

REF: (A) ROME 11784, (B) ROME 12041

1. MISS LILLIAN WILL BE MET AT AIRPORT BY ITALIAN PRESS.
DRAFT SCHEDULE (REF. A) CALLS FOR SHORT ARRIVAL STATEMENT
AND BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE TO FOLLOW. PROPOSED STATEMENT
BEING SENT SEPTTEL.
2. MOST QUESTIONS WILL BE ABOUT LIFE IN GEORGIA, ABOUT
THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE PRESIDENT.
3. MISS LILLIAN MAY ALSO BE ASKED ABOUT ITALIAN POLITICAL
DEVELOPMENTS AND ITALIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. SUBJECTS
THAT MAY ARISE ARE ITALY'S LIBERAL NEW ABORTION LAW,
ROLE OF ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) IN GOI, RECENT
VITITS BY PCI OFFICIALS TO UNITED STATES, CARTER
ADMINISTRATION POLICY TOWARD EUROCOMMUNISM. WE RECOMMEND
THAT MISS LILLIAN DECLINE TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ON THE GROUNDS
THAT THEY DEAL WITH ITALIAN DOMESTIC MATTERS AND REMIND HER
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QUESTIONERS THAT HER MISSION IS TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE
PROBLEMS OF WORLD HUNGER.

4. ON MAY 13 THE ITALIAN PRESS REPORTED AN ALLEGED
COPENHAGEN PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT BY MISS LILLIAN TO THE
EFFECT THAT SHE HAD BEEN ASKED BY THE SATE DEPARTMENT TO
CANCEL A FRIENDSHIP FORCE VISIT TO ROME BECAUSE OF THE SECURITY

SITUATION IN ITALY. WE SUGGEST SHE ANSWER THE QUESTION IN A LIGHT EIN. HER PRESENCE ITSELF IS AN IMPLICIT REPLY TO THE QUESTION.

5. RECENT ISSUE OF ITALIAN WOMEN'S WEEKLY MAGAZINE, GIOIA, CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH MISS LILLIAN IN WHICH SHE COMMENTED ON KIDNAPPING OF ALDO MORO. QUESTION ABOUT MORO MAY ARISE AT PRESS CONFERENCE. PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON DEATH OF MORO AND LETTER TO MRS. MORO WOULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR ANSWER. SUGGEST COPIES BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MISS LILLIAN PRIOR TO ARRIVAL.

6. RECENT DECLINE IN THE PRESIDENT'S POPULARITY HAS RECEIVED HEAVY COVERAGE IN ITALIAN PRESS AND MAY ALSO BE SUBJECT OF A QUESTION. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO COORDINATE ANSWER WITH WHITE HOUSE PRESS OFFICE.

7. LIST OF QUESTIONS FOR TELEVISION AND MAGAZINE INTERVIEWS WILL FOLLOW ASAP.GARDNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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